

Court Battle Foreseen as Possibility in Rhode Island Book Law

By ROBERT L. FIENBERG
United Press International

Providence, R. I. (UPI)—A controversial "textbook aid law" quietly being implemented in this tiny state could lead to a battle over church-state separation.

The law requires that local school boards to lease textbooks on residential, scientific and foreign languages to parochial and private school pupils upon request.

Proponents say the law, passed by a Democratic-controlled general assembly and signed by a Republican governor, will help prevent the use of sub-standard texts. Opponents say it is just an excuse to start public support of private education.

In Rhode Island, where 68 per cent of the state's 800,000 population is Roman Catholic, the law was drawn with the hope it would avoid the constitutional clash by specifying that the loan is to the individual child and not to the private or parochial school.

This "child benefit" theory was upheld by the U.S. Supreme court in cases involving textbook aid to non-public schools in Louisiana and the use of public funds for parochial school pupil transportation in New Jersey.

Threatened Action

Several Protestant church conferences have proposed starting "war chests" to finance a court battle in Rhode Island. But so far no action has been taken.

An organization called Pro-Testants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU) said it will raise the cost of the books by 25 per cent.

The ACLU said it cannot determine what form its support will take until it sees how local school boards handle the law, passed last February. Some of the state's 30 cities and towns have now begun taking requests for books in preparation for the opening of school in September.

Here's how the textbook law works: First the books unit (non-sectarian) must be on an approved list drawn up by the state commissioner of education.

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Acting Postmaster Named in Talent

Mrs. Alice J. Thorsen of Talent was installed as acting postmaster for the area by Postal Inspector John A. Edwick yesterday. Congressman Robert Duncan, Washington, D. C., reported the appointment.

Mrs. Thorsen replaced Roger C. Smoot, who has retired.

Urban Negro Still Far Short of Goal For Equality Although Gains Noted

By HARRY FERGUSON
UPI Correspondent

The urban Negro in the United States has made limited gains toward equality this year but still is far short of his goal. A survey by United Press International of the nation's 25 largest cities shows that it is impossible, if not impossible, that 1963 will be the year of decision in the Negro fight for absolute equality.

The tempo of Negro demonstrations in the first half of 1963 mated many persons into believing a major breakthrough had been achieved or was at hand.

Between May 1 and July 19 there were demonstrations in 133 cities scattered through 30 states, most of them along the Eastern Seaboard. But when quiet was restored, most of the gains were limited and some of them were only on paper. It appears 1963 will go down in history as the year in which the Negro plowed and planted the fields of equality. It will take 10 years, perhaps longer, to reap the harvest.

Negro leaders are not publicly claiming major victories. The UPI asked the Rev. Martin Luther King of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, James Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality and Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to designate the city or town which they felt was dealing with the problem in the best way. All declined to reply, inviting the conclusion that they were dissatisfied with conditions everywhere.

25-City Survey

Facts and figures presented here represent conditions in the nation's 25 biggest cities and may not be valid in terms of all the Negroes in the nation. Here is a breakdown of how the urban Negro stood at the halfway mark of 1963:

Housing—No major Negro gains since the UPI conducted a survey a year ago. Everywhere the pattern is the same: Whites prefer not to live as neighbors with Negroes and if they can afford it they move to the suburbs. Between 1950 and 1960 the white population of Chicago declined by 811,223; the Negro population increased by 320,372. There are many "pepper and salt" neighborhoods where whites and Negroes live together because they cannot afford to do anything else. In Atlanta the Negro population comprising about 40 per cent of the total lives on one-fifth to one-sixth of the residential land.

In San Antonio, Tex., there is a development containing 75 houses selling for \$22,000 and up. It advertises that it is the only integrated housing development in the nation. So far, no whites have chosen to live there.

Public Office: The Negro does fairly well in appointive offices. San Antonio, San Diego, Cincinnati, Memphis and New Orleans have no Negroes in elective jobs. The Negro fares best in New York where he has a president of the city councilmen and a congressman, Adam Clayton Powell.

Public Accommodations: Much progress for the Negro has been made in this field. The bus problem has almost ceased to exist. There has been a quiet and orderly integration of swimming pools, parks and golf courses in most cities. But there has been no great Negro rush to use such facilities. There has been only a small and token integration of barber shops and beauty parlors, but the Negro seems to prefer to patronize members of their own race.

Hospitals: It is difficult to be definite about how the Negro patient fares because too many cities have laws against identifying persons by race or color. The 10 denominational hospitals in Minneapolis patients, doctors and nurses are completely integrated. In Memphis one of the three large city hospitals is staffed entirely by Negroes and treats only Negroes.

Job Opportunities: Negroes complain labor unions, especially in the North, are discriminatory. There are no Negro leaders chosen there is some truth in it, and President Kennedy's Executive Order AFL-CIO told Congress the other day it should pass a strong law to "stop up those loopholes" against Negroes still persist in our own ranks." Negro leaders complain about the Electricians Union in Philadelphia, Cleveland and San Diego. Candid labor leaders say that most unions have long lists of apprentice applications and Negroes are not on them. Other job opportunities vary widely. All major department stores in Washington have Negro clerks; only one major department store in Houston does so.

Treatment: St. Louis, Boston and Atlanta index prisoners by color, but no other cities do so. Negro prisoners are segregated in the jails of Atlanta, New Orleans, Houston and Cincinnati. Negro leaders voiced few complaints about police departments but did criticize the activities of individual policemen in some cases.

Churches: The area in which there has been the least trouble. However, there has been so widespread integration of worshippers because Negroes prefer to attend Negro churches in their own neighborhoods.

Public Housing: Most of the 30 largest cities operate under Civil Rights laws which prohibit racial discrimination. There seems to be a tendency to keep the number of Negroes on the public payroll in direct ratio to the percentage of Negroes in the population. There is a heavy percentage of Negroes in such categories as laborers and garbage collectors. All cities reporting agree there are fewer Negroes in the white collar category than in the laborer classification.

Professional Opportunities: Integration of the bar and medical associations is complete in 18 cities. The medical society is integrated but the bar association is not. Negroes have their own lawyers' association in Houston. In St. Louis they have their own medical forum.

Vocational Schools: In most large cities the Negro is well off. Houston gives vocational training in four of the five Negro high schools. New Orleans has a vocational institution which is integrated, but the private vocational schools are segregated. Smith-Hughes School in Atlanta has 11 Negro students out of 4,618.

Public Schools: In the nine years since the Supreme Court decision two patterns have developed. One is "segregation by area," meaning that many schools are predominantly Negro because they are located in Negro neighborhoods. In Washington, 15 public schools have more than 90 per cent Negro pupils. Nine towns have more than 80 per cent white students. The other development is that in the 25 largest cities the percentage of Negro pupils consistently is larger than that of Negro teachers.

Colleges: There is almost universal integration, but Negro students usually are heavily in the minority in both North and South. These are only about 200 Negroes in the University of Cincinnati which has 28,000 students. Cleveland reports that John Carroll has 27 Negroes in an enrollment of 1,816. Inability to pay the tuition and lack of scholastic qualifications are the reasons most frequently cited for the low percentage of Negro students.

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Californians Are Arrested in Area

James Powell, 21, and Eugene Hale, 28, both of Bakersfield, Calif., were arrested by state police Tuesday night on charges of burglary.

Who was seen as being held by the San Antonio, Texas, police pending arrangements.

They were arrested last far from the scene of the burglary. The two men were taken to the San Antonio Police, which was broken into, police said. Five men were arrested with articles missing from the house. Later they were taken to where they were held in a room at the Ewary Hotel. Monday night when a box of small tools were taken from the residence of Larry Turner, route 1, box 383, Central Point, about 2 1/2 miles from Gold Hill on the Blackwell hill rd.